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THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

OF THE

Province of British Columbia

AS SHOWN IN THE

BUDGET SPEECH

OF 1915

VICTORIA, B. C.

4/ subtitle

AN OUTLOOK OF PROMISE

Despite War Conditions, British Columbia is Still to the Fore

ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PROVINCE

(Colonist Verbatim Report of Budget Speech Delivered February 20th, 1915)

The Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech in the Legislature last evening. He said:

"Mr. Speaker:—This is the fifth occasion upon which I have had the privilege of presenting the annual financial statement of the Province. I would be pleased if I could address this House in other circumstances than those by which we are surrounded, as the result of a terrible war. The hostilities in Europe and elsewhere have changed the entire financial aspect of the world, and British Columbia has been far from free from their effects. On former occasions I and my predecessors have been able to hold up the bright side of the shield. This year, while it is not a dark side, I cannot talk about expanding revenues or substantial increases in production, which have been the record for the past ten years; but, of course, this is not a condition in which British Columbia is in any way peculiar. It is one common to all the Provinces, to Canada, and to all the Dominions of the Empire. The whole of the world, more or less, has been drawn into financial and industrial depression, and we have only one duty to perform, and that is, as expressed by His Honor, to face the situation with fortitude. I am an old British Columbian, and in my own experience we have passed through a number of depressions, when no war at all affected the situation, quite as serious as this, and each time we came up smiling and prosperous.

"Without further preliminary, I shall proceed to the consideration of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending March

31st, 1914; and in that respect there is a very good showing to make. The estimated revenue for that year was $10,326,085, and the actual revenue was $10,398,381. The estimated expenditure was $17,838,266, and the actual expenditure was $15,762,912. So that you see our estimates were closely lived up to. To some extent the reduction in actual expenditure was due to unexpended appropriations, but to a considerable degree to the exercise of various economies.

"Considering the various items of expenditure, civil service salaries were less by $83,000, owing to some of the votes not being used. Administration of Justice (salaries) was slightly under the estimate, but the cost of administration of justice itself was increased by nearly $400,000. This was due to the protracted strikes on the Island of Vancouver and the subsequent rioting, which it was necessary to take in hand by special police and calling out the Militia. Legislation kept below the estimates by $4,000; the Mental Hospital by $24,000; Fisheries, $5,000; Education by over $34,000; Transport, $52,000; Revenue Service, over $25,000; Works and Buildings, $381,000; Roads, Streets, Bridges, etc., over $640,000; subsidies nearly $36,000; miscellaneous over $600,000. Under the head of miscellaneous we saved $214,000 in the Lands Branch, $80,000 in surveys, $50,000 in railway subsidies, $11,000 in forest protection, $11,000 on Royal Commissions, $11,000 on Provincial Board of Health, $34,000 on advertising, $23,000 in agricultural associations, $16,000 in outside services, $9,000 in fruit exhibitions, $2,000 in women's institutes, $10,000 on immigration, $15,000 in miscellaneous not detailed. Appropriations not expended were $400,000 for the Second Narrows Bridge, $286,572 for Songhees Reserve, and $500,000 for University Buildings.

ITEMS IN REVENUE

"Taking now the revenue, the items in which there was a decrease from estimates were: Land sales by nearly $800,000; water fees, about $38,000; free miners' certificates, $20,400; mining receipts (general), $8,000; registration of joint stock companies, $35,600; personal property tax, over $13,000; wild land tax, $90,600; royalty and tax on coal, $57,400; printing office, $30,000; interest, $108,000; log-scaling fees, $4,625.

"The items in which there was a decrease, such as land sales, free miners' certificates, registration of joint stock companies, wild land tax, and printing office, indicate a lessening in speculative tendencies. A decrease of royalty tax on coal is accounted for by strike conditions.

"The principal items which show a substantial increase in revenue over the estimates are: Timber licenses, $34,500; timber royalty licenses, $144,000; timber and logging licenses, $22,500; game licenses, $98,000; fines and fees of court, $15,000; succession duties, $49,000; tax on Crown granted mineral claims, $5,000; Chinese restriction tax, $780,000; boiler inspection fees, $6,250; fishing and cannery licenses, $7,000; Fines Act, $9,000; motor traffic fees, $48,500; miscellaneous, $105,400.

"The increases in the main are most satisfactory, and show substantial development. The large unexpected increase in returns from game licenses illustrate what an important asset to the Province our game is when properly conserved. The large returns from timber revenues is due not so much, perhaps, in that particular year, to increase in the lumber industry as to closer collection of revenue through the vigilance of the Forestry Department. The returns from the Fines and Motor Traffice Acts are very gratifying. Succession duties, law stamps, registry fees, probate fees and Chinese restriction tax are sources of revenue which are more or less accidental and vary from year to year. In each case the increase has been substantial.

THE ESTIMATES

"Coming now to the Estimates for the fiscal year 1915-'16: These have been framed, having in view the conditions which exist and which necessitate economies in various directions. We anticipate, as a result of war conditions, a reduction in revenue which amounts, in round numbers, to $3,000,000. Such a situation means that we must cut our coat according to our cloth.

"Fixed revenues and fixed expenditures remain practically the same as heretofore.

"In regard to revenue, land sales have been reduced from $1,500,000 in 1914-'15, to $950,000; land revenue from $250,000 to $150,000; timber licenses from $1,825,000 to $1,300,000; timber leases from $80,000 to $75,000; timber royalties from $480,000 to $400,000; timber sales, $110,000 to $45,000; water rentals, $60,000 to $30,000; water records, $40,000 to $20,000; real property tax, $470,000 to $400,000; personal property tax, $230,000 to $200,000; land taxes, $850,000 to $500,000; income tax from $350,000 to $300,000; mineral tax, $150,000 to $100,000; coal and coke taxes, $200,000 to $100,000; game licenses, $100,000 to $80,000; marriage licenses, $30,000 to $15,000; fishery and cannery licenses, $31,000 to $30,000; joint stock company fees, $100,000 to $45,000; motor traffic fees, $90,000 to $80,000; boiler inspection and examination fees, $30,000 to

$23,000; moving picture fees, $27,000 to $18,000; free miners' certificates, $80,000 to $50,000; mining receipts (general), $110,000 to $30,000; fines and fees of court, $60,000 to $40,000; succession duties, $250,000 to $200,000; registry fees, $650,000 to $335,000; printing office, $60,000 to $35,000.

"The estimates which remain unchanged are: Taxes on unworked Crown granted mineral claims, $40,000; trade to $335,000; printing office, $60,000 to fees, $50,000.

"The items under which increases are expected are: Licenses, taxes and fees under the Fire Insurance Act, $60,000 to $70,000; law stamps, $70,000 to $82,700; interest on deposits, $50,000 to $75,000; mental hospital, $35,000 to $36,500; traffic tolls, New Westminster Bridge, $24,000 to $25,000; miscellaneous receipts, $50,000 to $65,000.

"It is unnecessary to go into minute explanation of the reasons for the changes from the Estimates of 1914-'15 to those of 1915-'16, because they suggest in themselves the explanation and are more or less based upon the revenues which have been received by the Treasury since the beginning of the war on August 4 of last year. The most material change is the omission from the Estimates of revenue of the item of Chinese Restriction Act, which hereafter will not figure in our accounts.

NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

"In reference to expenditure, it is not possible, on account of certain fixed charges, to reduce it to an amount which would balance the receipts and at the same time provide for the proper administration of the public service.

"Under the head of Public Debt, owing to new loans, $541,737 has been increased to $1,152,376.

"Civil Government salaries have been reduced from $1,744,375 to $1,709,146. Under this head, the Government has reduced the staff to what might be termed an efficient working minimum.

"In the Administration of Justice (salaries), $65,790 has been increased to $68,100, due to certain necessary increases in the staff.

"Legislation necessarily remains about the same.

"Public Institutions (maintenance) has been increased from $448,426 to $467,426, an increase due to necessary increases in the staff, etc., and to some extent, to war conditions.

"Hospitals and charities have been reduced from $587,700 to $374,100. The reduction here is due to the non-necessity of building more hospitals. The expenditure for the administration

of justice other than salaries is an item which is more or less uncontrollable, but there is a reduction here from $441,400 to $378,000.

"In education, the demands of which continue to increase, notwithstanding war conditions, the estimate has been increased from $1,470,696 to $1,594,600.

"In the item of transport there is a reduction from $133,000 to $83,000, due, to a considerable extent, to considerations of economy and also to the fact that some of the expense is provided for in the appropriations for various departments.

"The most substantial decrease is in the matter of works and buildings, in which the estimate of $2,319,500 is reduced to $455,700. The explanation of this is that during the last few years a large amount of money has been expended in providing for necessary buildings, the necessity for which will decrease from now on until the population has been very substantially augmented.

"In roads, streets and bridges we have made no material reduction. When I say no material reduction I mean that the reduction amounts to about $400,000 from $2,861,000 last year. The necessity for supplying facilities for communication, owing to railway construction and settlement, still continues. And there is also the consideration that, so far as possible, the Government is desirous of affording as much employment as possible to the people of the Province.

"Subsidies to steamboats, ferries and bridges have been reduced from $96,075 to $73,815

"$400,000 has been included in the vote for public works for the construction of the Second Narrows Bridge. This expenditure is contingent upon a suitable arrangement being entered into for the construction of that important undertaking.

"Miscellaneous expenditure has been reduced from $2,852,490 to $2,128,752. The items which largely compose 'miscellaneous' are surveys, which have been reduced from $570,000 to $100,000; Songhees Reserve, $340,000 to $200,000; Immigration, $60,000 to $25,000; Water Rights Branch, $192,000 to $83,500; temporary assistance, $42,000 to $25,000; agriculture, $300,000 to $229,000.

"Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars is being appropriated on account of the Dominion Trust Company, to be immediately available on account of the bonds furnished by that Company. Supplementaries have been placed at $779,000.

"It will be seen that there is a reduction of $4,000,000 in the expenditure as between the last fiscal year and this.

PUBLIC DEBT

"The net debt of the Province is $20,748,146. The sinking fund amounts to $2,563,428. When we consider the assets of the Province and the large sums in arrears on account of land sales, which, with accrued interest and taxes, amount to approximately $15,000,000, this liability is very small, especially as compared with the other Western Provinces which do not possess land, timber and mineral resources, and with our own municipal indebtedness, which amounts to $93,400,000. Of course, we may not be able to collect all the arrears, and it has been suggested that the Government has been neglectful of its duty in not pressing for payment, but in the present circumstances it has been considered unwise to further depress the general situation by demanding payment or forfeiture while the war is on. There is a very good prospect of a large amount of these arrears being paid after the war is over, and it is probable that the Government may be able to devise a scheme by which these lands will become productive at an early date. When we consider our large natural assets, practically all in the control of the Government, $20,750,000 is a very small debt indeed. Since Confederation we have made fourteen separate loans, and you may be surprised to know that the total of our borrowings has been less than $25,000,000. Of course, there was a time recently when the Government could have paid off its debt, if that had been a convenient course to pursue, with the actual cash in hand, but the large revenues which accrued as the result of the active policy of the Government have been devoted to works of development which places the Province in a position to immediately reap the benefits to flow from the Panama Canal and the expansion to follow upon the close of the war. As it is, with the cash in hand, $6,500,000, we are in a very sound financial position. If we were not at war we could borrow heavily, but it is incumbent upon the Government at the present time, and for some time to come, to carefully husband our available resources so that at no time during or after it the credit of British Columbia may be at all impaired. For this reason the Government has largely curtailed its usual expenditures, and, following the example of other Governments affected, decided not to embark during the present year upon any new schemes of development or put into effect any new policy. As the Prime Minister has put it, it is a period during which we must mark time and await the results of the war.

LOANS EFFECTED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA SINCE CONFEDERATION

Date of Loan	Amount	Interest	Date of Maturity	Where Payable	Amount Matured	Loans Outstanding	Sinking Fund	Revenue	Remarks
1874	$ 20,000	7 %	1894	Victoria	$ 20,000	....	....	$ 372,000	
1877	727,500	6 %	1907	London	727,500	....	....	408,000	
1887	996,190	4½%	1917	London	614,980	$ 381,210	$ 346,521.07	540,000	
1891	2,139,141	3 %	1941	London	....	2,139,141	....	1,020,000	
1893	599,945	3 %	1941	London	....	599,945	....	1,012,000	
1895	2,037,000	3 %	1941	London	....	2,037,000	....	877,000	
1897	100,000	3½%	1907	Victoria	100,000	....	....	1,365,000	
1899	1,649,000	3 %	1941	London	....	1,649,000	....	1,500,000	
1899	671,000	3½%	1937	Victoria	226,000	445,000	56,496.26	....	
1902	3,496,850	3 %	1941	London	....	3,496,850	2,160,410.64	2,660,000	This Sinking Fund applies to Loans 1891, 1893, 1895, 1899 and 1902.
1903	1,000,000	5 %	1914	Victoria	1,000,000	....	....	2,000,000	
1913	1,503,500	5½%	1914	London	1,503,500	....	....	12,500,000	Treasury Bills.
1914	7,300,000	4½%	1941	London	....	7,300,000	..	....	
1914	2,700,000	4½%	1915	New York	...	2,700,000	....	10,480,000	Treasury Bills.
	$24,940,126				$4,191,980	$20,748,146	$2,563,427.97		

(Treasury, 31st December, 1914.)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

"As the question of agricultural production has been very much discussed of late, I have taken particular pains to have the Department, through its statistical branch, go very carefully into the details of production and imports, and I hold in my hand a very complete statement of everything under the several heads covering the past three years. In fact, we have been able with a fair measure of success, at least so far as the available information will permit, to extend the comparison as far back as 1894. Through increased facilities the Department has been able to get additional information as to the production of several recent years, which was not formerly included, and which somewhat increases the totals. These relate principally to production on Indian Reserves and in the Peace River district. In this connection, I wish to say there was some criticism of the figures of production of the Agricultural Department in reply to a statement of the Premier in a review of the year's progress in the newspapers. It was pointed out that on page 359 of the report of the Royal Commission of Agriculture the production for 1913 is given at $38,124,819, which, instead of showing an increase of $3,500,000 in 1914, as stated by the Premier, was actually about $10,000,000 less, as compared with the figures for 1914 given by Sir Richard. In order that there may be no mistake about it, the $38,000,000 odd in question is not the value of the production of the year 1913, nor does it purport to be. It is the value of agricultural products as a whole, including live stock, ascertained at the time the valuation was made, and refers to that year. The actual increased production for that year, including the increase in the value of live stock, was about $3,600,000. As a matter of fact, the Premier understated rather than overstated the increase of production. I wish to dwell upon this matter, because through such misleading criticisms an impression is being created that the Province is not producing as it should and is really on the decline. Whatever may be the splendid possibilities of the future, in the past we have done well, and we are now doing well. An increase of $3,600,000 in one year in a Province like British Columbia is a good showing. I think it is a remarkable showing. In fifteen important products there has been an average percentage of increase of over seven hundred per cent. since 1894, and in only three have there been decreases, and that of an average of 28 per cent. The most important of these is been marketed, and that is due to the breaking up of the large cattle ranges of the Interior and the shifting of a large portion of the source of supply to the Middle West. There

are other items, like fruit and vegetables, nursery stock and milk, in which there is no basis of comparison, but which have assumed a very large volume of production. We must, of course, go on doing well, very much better; but it is unfair and untrue to say agricultural production has not been very satisfactory. It is true that the volume of imports is very large, and has been increasing, but I must point out, as I did on former occasions, that in twelve years subsequent to 1901 the population increased over three times. Among these imports, too, there are many items which in certain seasons will always be imported and will always be considerable in bulk. Now, in regard to imports as shown by customs returns, I want to say that they decreased in value in 1914 over 1913 27.21 per cent. This is gratifying as being largely in the right direction. An effort has been made to discredit the value of the agricultural statistics, and it may be contended that they do not represent actual conditions. It was difficult a few years ago to arrive at absolutely accurate returns, but with increased facilities, I can assure this House that they are as reliable as any such statistics can be, and the methods employed are those employed by other agricultural bureaus of statistics. The greatest care has been taken and the most diligent efforts have been made to secure accuracy.

HOME PRODUCTION

"Home production has increased over 1913, in round figures, $3,600,000. In live stock there was an increase of about $2,000,000. The greatest increase occurred under the head of dairy cattle, and there is a steady demand at high prices for milch cows. In dairy produce the increase was $419,600 over 1913, or 16 per cent. Beef and pork marketed shows 62 per cent. since 1913. Poultry increased by about 20 per cent. The war has created an extra demand for horses suitable for cavalry mounts.

"Although the total fruit crop was far in excess of that of 1913—nearly 40 per cent. more—the lower prices showed a decreased value of about 9½ per cent. Vegetables show an increase of over 11 per cent. The production of honey is increasing very rapidly, and this is a most gratifying feature. Hay, fodder, corn and grains all show large increases. These have almost a direct relation to the development of live stock and dairying production.

"It is estimated that the output of jam and canning factories has increased about two hundred per cent. We see, therefore, with two or three exceptions, there has been substantial increase all along the line. Despite war conditions, prices have not increased. On the other hand, they have declined in some instances.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS,

ADVANCE ESTIMATE ONLY.

		Unit
Horses		
Cattle, beef	increase	
" dairy	"	
Sheep	"	
Swine	"	
Poultry	"	
Total Live Stock		Lbs.
Butter		
Cheese		Lbs.
Milk		"
Total Dairy Products		Gals.
Beef and Veal		
Pork and Pork Products		Lbs.
Mutton		"
Lard		"
Total Meats		"
Apples		
Other Tree Fruits		Lbs.
Small Fruits		"
Vegetables		"
Total Fruits and Vegetables		Tons
Eggs		
Honey		Doz.
Total Eggs and Honey		Lbs.
Malt		
Hay		Lbs.
Fodder, Corn and Kale		Tons
Whole Grains		"
Mill Stock Feed		Bushels
Flax		Tons
Agricultural Seeds		Bushels
Canned Meats, etc.		
" Fruits and Jams		Lbs.
" Vegetables, Pickles, etc.		"
Mixed Canned Products, Dried Fruits, etc.		"
Nursery Stock		"
Hops		.....
Total Grain, Hay, etc.		Lbs.
Totals		.....
Indians—Grand Totals		.....
GRAND TOTAL		.....

HOME PRODUCTION.

LIVE STOCK.—Produced during the year.
DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Figures supplied by creameries, dairies and canning firms—quantity includes canned milk and ice cream shown as fresh milk.
MEATS.—Figures supplied by wholesale meat firms.

(Provincial and Imported and Exported) British Columbia, for the Years 1912, 1913 and 1914

HOME PRODUCTION

1914		1913		1912	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
.....	1,927,566	.. ....	1,263,815	.....	1,379,500
.....	3,512,170	.....	2,209,060	.....	988,000
.....	1,976,993	.....	1,146,660	.....	500,000
.....	225,279	.....	505,872	.....	84,752
.....	481,351	.....	919,026	.....	183,.93
3,748,542	646,793	.....	673,2'7	.....	1,351,000
.....	8,770,152	.....	6,717,640	.....	4,486,845
1,609,124	571,113	1,355,650	542,260	1,500,000	630,000
none	.....	None Ma	nufactured	.....	.....
9,058,283	2,440,887	7,902,065	2,051,144	7,900,000	2,388,000
.....	3,012,000	.....	2,593,404	.....	3,018,000
9,000,000	999,000	5,663,066	867,157	.....	....
770,000	100,100	365,600	63,980	2,102,000	320,555
750,000	112,500	923,859	152,435	953,000	76,240
.....	.....	.....	.....	50,000	9,00.
.....	1,202,600	.....	1,083,572	.....	405,795
29,448,120	524,074	20,012,716	581,822	22,652,400	526,800
8,734,687	238,309	6,960,780	221,597	4,682,144	120,052
2,889,820	233,688	2,496,994	218,797	1,656,000	175,260
153,662	3,224,069	143,511	3,096,339	173,100	2,049,694
.....	4,220,140	.....	4,118,555	.....	2,871,806
5,037,798	1,763,229	5,020,381	1,757,133	3,437,750	1,203,212
300,000	51,000	44,610	8,475	50,274	12,562
.....	1,814,229	.....	1,765,608	.....	1,215,774
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
391,191	6,289,551	312,728	5,999,734	399,885	7,197,930
9,767	47,456	.....	.....	.....	.....
2,396,711	2,661,664	2,854,553	1,844,704	2,264,400	2,264,400
.....	.....	.....	....	.....	.. . .
.....	.....	88	48	.....	....
No re	turns	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	none	.....	... .	.....
See Fruits a	nd Vegetables	... .	.....	.....	.....
"	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
"	"	4,415,544	98,052	6,500,000	325,000
.....	106,000	.... ..	318,825	.....	270,000
967,824	232,278	1,038,039	311,427	612,000	214,000
.....	9,336,949	.....	8,572,820	.... ..	10,271,548
.....	28,356,070	.....	24,851,599	.....	22,269,768
.....	1,459,204	.....	1,370,434	.....	1,053,719
.....	29,815,274	... .	26,222,033	.... ..	23,323,487

HOME PRODUCTION—CONTD.

EGGS.—Figures supplied by poultry associations.
BALANCE PRODUCTS.—Figures obtained by Statistics Branch from producers, shipping organizations, etc.
Production of Peace River district not shown, 1912-13 included 1914.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS,

ADVANCE ESTIMATE ONLY.

		Unit
Horses	increase	$
Cattle, beef	"	$
" dairy	"	$
Sheep	"	$
Swine	"	$
Poultry	"	$
Total Live Stock		Lbs.
Butter		Lbs.
Cheese		"
Milk		Gals.
Total Dairy Products		
Beef and Veal		Lbs.
Pork and Pork Products		"
Mutton		"
Lard		"
Total Meats		
Apples		Lbs.
Other Tree Fruits		"
Small Fruits		"
Vegetables		Tons
Total Fruits and Vegetables		
Eggs		Doz.
Honey		Lbs.
Total Eggs and Honey		
Malt		Lbs.
Hay		Tons
Fodder, Corn and Kale		"
Whole Grains		Bushels
Mill Stock Feed		Tons
Flax		Bushels
Agricultural Seeds		$
Canned Meats, etc.		Lbs.
" Fruits and Jams		"
" Vegetables, Pickles, etc.		"
Mixed Canned Products, Dried Fruits, etc.		"
Nursery Stock		
Hops		Lbs.
Total Grain, Hay, etc.		
Totals		
Indians—Grand Totals		
GRAND TOTAL		

IMPORTS FROM CANADIAN PROVINCES.

Figures obtained from over 350 importers in the Province. Large increase due to hay and grain not shown 1913, being included in 1914 figures.

(Provincial and Imported and Exported) British Columbia, for the Years 1912, 1913 and 1914—contd.

IMPORTED FROM CANADIAN PROVINCES

1914		1913		1912	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
545	128,830	.....	.....	6,025	1,054,375
43,918	3,505,253	60,000	4,680,000	11,500	690,000
702	58,108	2,009	150,000	1,509	172,500
17,311	108,208	105,500	692,000	154,250	617,000
90,326	1,382,667	43,600	856,000	3,125	46,875
1,356,860	274,313	1,260,500	283,480	2,344,595	422,027
.....	5,458,139	.....	6,461,480	.....	3,002,777
6,439,408	1,755,295	7,562,000	2,041,740	3,980,000	796,000
1,911,335	317,386	1,985,000	317,750	3,343,063	501,549
1,704,862	678,640	1,704,500	681,800	840,000	252,000
.....	2,751,321	.....	3,041,290	.....	1,549,549
10,172,175	1,185,374	13,325,000	1,406,500	.....	.....
7,055,471	1,166,884	7,537,500	1,084,235	2,484,011	447,122
1,970,041	303,949	See	sheep	.....	.....
1,538,989	174,794	.....	.....	851,261	136,202
.....	2,831,001	.....	2,490,735	.....	583,324
.....	.....	none	none	25,800	540
.....	.....	none	none	.....	.....
.....	.....	none	none	.....	.....
.....	.....	No	returns	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	540
2,731,440	751,514	1,785,200	446,300	1,872,000	468,000
9,705	1,754	4,300	575	325,164	81,291
.....	[illegible],268	.....	446,875	.....	549,291
171,020	193,165	No	returns	.....	.....
17,483	297,232	No	returns	74,760	1,345,680
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5,686,793	3,489,832	No	returns	2,160,000	2,160,000
32,740	844,347	.....	.....	.....	.....
2,728	2,738	No	returns	.....	.....
.....	163,311	.....	.....	.....	.....
391,104	77,668	209,600	19,500	458,960	100,000
1,254,465	94,968	.....	.....	.....	.....
5,188,520	270,511	.....	.....	.....	.....
4,003,505	282,191	5,553,600	277,100	.....	.....
.....	.....	none	none	.....	115,589
1,725	414	No	returns	.....	.....
.....	8,114,726	.....	296,600	.....	3,721,269
.....	17,510,206	.....	12,936,980	.....	9,406,750
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	17,510,206	.....	.....	.....	.....

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS,

ADVANCE ESTIMATE ONLY.

		Unit
Horses	increase	#
Cattle, beef	"	#
" dairy	"	#
Sheep	"	#
Swine	"	#
Poultry	"	#
Total Live Stock		Lbs.
Butter		Lbs.
Cheese		"
Milk		Gals.
Total Dairy Products		
Beef and Veal		Lbs.
Pork and Pork Products		"
Mutton		"
Lard		"
Total Meats		
Apples		Lbs.
Other Tree Fruits		"
Small Fruits		"
Vegetables		Tons
Total Fruits and Vegetables		
Eggs		Doz.
Honey		Lbs.
Total Eggs and Honey		
Malt		Lbs.
Hay		Tons
Fodder, Corn and Kale		"
Whole Grains		Bushels
Mill Stock Feed		Tons
Flax		Bushels
Agricultural Seeds		#
Canned Meats, etc.		Lbs.
" Fruits and Jams		"
" Vegetables, Pickles, etc.		"
Mixed Canned Products, Dried Fruits, etc.		"
Nursery Stock		.....
Hops		Lbs.
Total Grain, Hay, etc.		.....
Totals		.....
Indians—Grand Totals		.....
GRAND TOTAL		.....

IMPORTS FROM POINTS OUTSIDE CANADA.

Figures supplied by Customs Department, Ottawa, for calendar year.

(Provincial and Imported and Exported) British Columbia, for the Years 1912, 1913 and 1914—contd.

IMPORTED FROM POINTS OUTSIDE CANADA

1914		1913		1913	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
486	39,787	1,545	160,866	4,343	454,345
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
399	18,096	581	30,600	304	9,530
56,373	210,874	69,459	263,480	74,360	250,890
.....	75	(lb.) 5,490	469	6	130
.....	67,229	.....	191,238	962,000	126,760
.....	336,661	.....	620,653	.....	841,655
6,906,050	1,584,512	6,011,600	1,689,932	3,090,000	618,000
262,639	55,105	566,400	127,560	375,194	79,435
414,805	98,113	976,565	226,360	1,250,000	375,000
.....	1,731,730	.....	2,043,861	.....	1,072,435
2,681,215	205,399	5,836,747	454,001	.....	.....
1,343,300	245,275	4,046,382	675,698	4,400,275	693,209
3,698,782	378,002	4,844,881	497,576	4,854,869	447,569
.....	.....	.....	.....	1,569,359	196,546
.....	828,676	.....	1,637,275	.....	1,337,424
8,019,040	168,792	18,780,480	300,644	11,438,430	255,784
4,198,232	138,599	6,147,723	227,278	7,594,150	265,663
2,092,146	133,387	2,876,088	197,643	1,172,987	92,941
.....	339,451	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	780,229	.....	725,565	.....	614,388
2,854,178	662,489	4,876,513	1,170,579	3,744,000	823,680
60,757	8,224	144,871	20,339	190,725	25,600
.....	670,713	.....	1,190,918	.....	849,280
751,642	17,209	1,778,747	42,056	704,899	18,024
11,101	136,293	20,250	285,980	29,120	371,302
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
546,763	458,966	203,876	229,944	250,810	237,675
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	No	returns
362,779	58,629	410,433	77,396	.....	.....
2,607,805	139,643	.....	.....	.....	.....
1,269,120	79,361	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	*3,901,078	214,448	4,836,307	296,995
.....	23,534	.....	50,246	.....	33,547
58,752	23,026	67,227	19,435	56,794	20,510
.....	936,661	.....	919,505	.....	978,053
.....	5,290,670	.....	7,133,777	.....	5,845,272
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* Fruit only.

EXPORTS

Since the imports, especially from Dominion points, appear so large, I may state that it is difficult to show just what percentage of these imports are for home consumption. As the result of interviewing certain dealers in the Province, it is estimated that about 13 per cent. of these exports shown in the Customs official return are produced in the Province. This would make our exports to Dominion and foreign points approximately $2,000,000, which could well be credited against our interprovincial and foreign trade.

Estimate of Agricultural Products Shipped from British Columbia to Other Provinces in Canada during the Calendar Year 1914

VALUES ONLY

Live Stock		$ 33,200
Fruits—		
Apples	$367,200	
Other Tree Fruits	112,605	
Small Fruits	58,887	
		538,692
Vegetables—		
Potatoes	$488,071	
Other Vegetables	132,814	
		620,885
Hops		156,000
Pork Products		18,000
Nursery Stock		6,000
		$1,372,777

The statement of Canadian exports passing outward through British Columbia ports during the calendar year December 31st, 1914, show the amount to have been $4,501,288, or a total of about $6,000,000 of local and outside imports. As stated previously, $2,000,000 of the exports would, approximately, represent British Columbia production.

TIMBER AND FORESTRY

"In spite of the unprecedented conditions created by the war, the total production of our forest industries was valued at no less

than $28,500,000. The shingle business was brisk for the greater portion of the year; while the activity in the pulp and paper market has been most encouraging, the only difficulty encountered by British Columbia mills being the shortage in available shipping. The total cut of the Province may be estimated at 1¼ billion feet, which is a somewhat surprising figure in view of existing conditions. The permission granted by the Government to loggers to export the accumulations of logs that our mills were temporarily unable to utilize, did a great deal to relieve the conditions on the Coast.

"It is a noteworthy fact that the present revenue has not suffered to the extent that might have been expected. Collections for the twelve months ending December 1 last, amounted to $2,157,018.

"The fire season was one of the worst on record, and expenditure was far heavier than usual, though, even so, it was less than a quarter of the amount the Northwestern States were compelled to devote to fire fighting. The damage done to standing timber and property was comparatively small, a result that is to be attributed to the excellent organization of the Forest Service.

"During the past two years the Government has made a careful study of the lumber industry of the Province, in order that any action taken to promote this industry might be based on full knowledge of conditions. This study, up to the present, has consisted of a review of the sources of supply upon which the timber importing countries of the world depend. In the course of this review information has been received which has already led to the placing of foreign orders in British Columbia. Advantage has been taken of the co-operation offered by the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce to place exhibits of British Columbia timber in the chief foreign importing centres. The field for export expansion is great; the entering of this field by the lumber indus- t.. and the Government in co-operation will undoubtedly lead to an important expansion of the industry.

"We can scarcely over-estimate the importance of the timber industry to British Columbia. On a very recent occasion in this House the Premier said that the time was not far distant when the revenue derived from this industry would be sufficient to carry on the entire civil business of the country. During a previous session I expressed a similar opinion, and referred to our enormous resources in pulp wood alone. Our timber is growing faster than it is being cut; and if all of what in the past has been classed as

'merchantable' were taken away, we would still be able to supply the world. The relations of the Government to the holders of timber, fortunately, is one of partnership, the interests of both being to conserve and perpetuate this great industry.

MINING AFFECTED

"In general, mining has been more adversely affected by the war than any other industry. With the exception of placer gold, which will this year be found to have produced about the normal amount, all the other metals will show a decreased production. The reason for this is that the base metals—copper and lead—which form the greater part of our mineral output, are exported, chiefly to Europe, and as these metals are contraband of war, the export has been greatly reduced. The United States also produces these metals in excess of home consumption, so we find no relief there. As to the precious metals—gold and silver—some 75 per cent. of the former, and practically all the latter metal, are found, in British Columbia, in connection with one of the base metals mentioned, and cannot be mined separately; hence the precious metals are affected through the curtailment of output of the base metals. Similarly with the output of the collieries in the Upper Country—they are largely dependent for a market on the base metal mines and smelters; so much is this so that, roughly, the output from these collieries will not be much greater than 71 per cent. of what it was last year. On Vancouver Island the collieries are not dependent on metal mining, and here they will show a greater production. These conditions are not permanent nor inherent to the mining industry, for the first six months of the year showed a greater production than for a similar period of 1913, and the promise was that 1914 would possibly witness a record-breaking mineral production. The Provincial Mineralogist supplies the following, a rough estimate of the 1914 production, as compared with the production of 1913:

	Production 1913	(Estimated) 1914	P. C. Dec.
Gold	$ 6,137,490	$ 5,628,126	91.70
Metalliferous	11,563,348	9,758,730	86.36
Coal	7,481,190	6,374,578	85.21
Coke	1,716,270	1,427,586	80.32
Building materials, etc.	3,398,100	3,000,000	88.28
	$30,296,398	$26,189,020	

"The average market prices of all the metals for the year 1914 were much lower than in 1913, and this fact alone accounts for $1,250,000 of the decrease shown above.

"It is very gratifying to know that, despite the unfortunate conditions of the year 1914, the dividends of mining companies amounted to about $1,700,000, or only $700,000 less than in 1913, which was a banner year, but still $475,000 greater than they were in 1912.

FISHERIES PROSPEROUS

"The fisheries of the Province for the fiscal year, which will end March 31 next, will show an appreciable increase in value over those of the preceding twelvemonth. With the suspension and interference with fishing in the North Sea, a great demand for British Columbia halibut and salt fish has sprung up, with the result that heavy shipments of fish in ice has developed. A gratifying feature of the fisheries during the last few months have been the heavy shipments from Prince Rupert destined for Great Britain and the East. In January alone twenty-seven carloads were forwarded to these points, already justifying the prophesies made by the Government as to the importance which this northerly centre was bound to develop in connection with the fisheries. It is estimated that the total value of the product of British Columbia for the year ending March 31, 1915, will equal or exceed $15,000,000. The chief constituent is, of course, the canned salmon, which totalled in value nearly $9,500,000. While the pack of sockeye fell below that of the preceding year, a 'big year' on the Fraser, large catches of the other varieties were made and canned. Owing to the demand for canned food of all kinds due to conditions in Europe, a market for all varieties of salmon has developed. Reference should be made to the Provincial contribution of salmon to the Imperial Government. This took the form of canned 'pinks.' Many tributes to the value and quality of these have since been received, not the least of which was conveyed in the information just recently received, that the War Office had requested that 10,000 cases of these 'pinks' be placed at its disposal for Army rations. Canners of the Province confidently expect that a greatly increased market for pink salmon will be developed in Great Britain as a result.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES

"A most important factor of the situation in British Columbia for the past few years has been the large immigration. During

the fiscal year ending March 31, 1914, the Dominion Government returns show that there were 37,608 settlers came to British Columbia, which does not, of course, include those coming from sister Provinces, showing a decrease of 20,360 over the preceding similar period; but even with this drop from 1912-'13, which was high water mark in Provincial immigration, British Columbia only falls short of Manitoba by 4,032, Saskatchewan by 3,391, and Alberta by 6,133. In the fiscal years of 1910-'11, 1911-'12 and 1912-'13 this Province had a substantial lead over all the Western Provinces. For the nine months of last year there were 1,014 British, 3,250 United States, and 3,174 immigrants from other countries. There are several causes for the falling off in immigration, and they affect practically the whole of Canada. There are the world-wide recession of good times and the war, and in British Columbia it was to some extent due to restrictive regulations being put in force to protect the labor market. While in the urban centres there has been a falling off in population, in many of the rural districts, and particularly close to the new lines of railway, there has been a substantial increase. Settlers from the Prairie Provinces still come in steadily, and we may look to those as a constant source of supply in the future as well as in the past. The floating population, largely through the completion of so much railway work, has fallen off very materially. During the fiscal year of 1913-'14, there were only 132 Japanese arrived. The Hindu population has been much reduced. There were 1,140 Chinese immigrants who paid head tax in 1914-'15, and 5,248 in 1913-'14. It is confidently felt that the close of the war and when conditions have been readjusted, the volume of immigration will be greatly increased.

TRADE AND GENERAL OUTLOOK

"Industries, outside of those already referred to, and trade in a general way, have been affected by war conditions. There has been a diminution in the volume of business done. Speculative activities have entirely ceased. Nevertheless, the record is not a bad one, and would be considered very good indeed a few years ago. In fact, the entire value of production in 1914 would be considered satisfactory in normal times for any previous year. In external trade, the volume of exports and imports for the last fiscal year amounted to $90,783,230, as against $92,523,922 for 1912-'13, and $69,428,000 for 1911-'12. I have not the figures for the full nine months since March of last year, but, so far as returns are available, despite the war, they are keeping well up. As might

be expected, the clearing-house returns, into which real estate and land transactions, etc., entered largely, show a considerable drop. For 1914, the total was $561,000,000, as against over $813,000,000 in 1913, and nearly $828,000,000 in 1912. Building, likewise, reflects the depressed and troublesome times. For seven cities of British Columbia the returns show value of buildings erected in 1914 to be $8,110,000, as against $17,000,000 in 1913. But even these, in present circumstances, are gratifying. We look to see the war over during the present year. When the war is over, and financial conditions are readjusted, we look, also, to see a return to an era of striking increases in the volume of business from year to year which have marked the past ten years. One result of the present war and the present depression will be that speculation in real estate and land, which was a factor in bringing about this situation, and over-expenditure on the part of the people generally in public and private capacities, will for some time, at least, be eliminated. I look to see business conducted on more economic and economical lines. I look to see us productive on a very large scale, with industries and commerce which will develop naturally from the resources and geographical situation of the Province. When the war is over, we shall be in a position to fully take advantage of the new situation. We have spent millions in making roads and other public improvements. When the railways under construction are completed, nearly 5,000 miles will have been added to the mileage of the Province within ten years, at a cost of about $250,000,000. The Panama Canal is open and doing business. With all these wonderful facilities at their hand, it will be their own fault if the people of the Province do not go ahead and prosper as they have never prospered before."